

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Chair Behrend called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Jim Behrend (Chair), Rodell Singert, Jim Jeskewitz, Andy Kallin, and Sandy Wolff. Tom Schellinger arrived at 1:06 p.m. Singert left at 3:28 p.m. **Absent:** Rob Hutton.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Veterans' Services Director John Margowski, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Deputy Health & Human Services Director Don Maurer, Intake & Support Services Manager Antwayne Robertson, Economic Services Coordinator Sue Schmitz, and Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz.

Read Correspondence

- A letter dated March 30th from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services about an uncertain future for the National Children's Study.

Announcements

Esler advised the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) Conference will be held next week in Madison. Esler suggested that he and Wolff give a report at a future meeting.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

June 1st

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Kallin moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve Wolff's attendance to the WCHSA Conference May 16th – 18th in Madison. Motion carried 5-0.

Schellinger arrived at 1:06 p.m.

Nomination and Election of Committee Vice-Chair and Secretary

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Kallin to elect Wolff as Vice-Chair. Motion carried 7-0.

MOTION: Wolff moved, second by Schellinger to elect Jeskewitz as Secretary. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss Committee Duties and Responsibilities as Contained in the Code of Ordinances

Esler explained the operating procedures and rules for the County Board and the Health & Human Services Committee as written in the County Code.

Overview of the Veterans' Services Department

Margowski said he and his staff advocate for veterans of Waukesha County, their dependants, and survivors for state and federal benefits for which they are entitled to. Initial interviews are

conducted with the veterans, screening for service-connected disability claims, dental claims, life insurance, educational programs, home loans, etc. Regarding service-connected disability claims, Margowski said they will always take Power of Attorney for a veteran when necessary. Staff will monitor claims through the regional office and once a decision is reached, it will be reviewed to determine if it was fair and just. If not, an appeals process is available to them.

The Waukesha County Veterans' Service Commission meets annually the first week of the year and thereafter as needed. The purpose of the Commission is to review applications from eligible veterans and their dependents to provide financial assistance, as the Commission deems appropriate. Benefits and assistance are not duplicated elsewhere. Margowski advised that applications for assistance can be made through his office. An investigation will be conducted and recommendations made to the Commission.

Margowski said another function by his department is to refer veterans and their dependents to other agencies when appropriate. This may include Health & Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Social Security, Job Service, etc. He also advocates in the political arena for improvement and change to veterans programs at the state and federal levels. There are four full-time employees in the department including him and they utilize temporary extra help on occasion.

Margowski indicated there are 32,000 veterans in Waukesha County and dependents of deceased veterans are probably three times that number. They all have potential eligibility for veterans programs. In 2005, veterans and their dependents received over \$43 million in federal entitlements and over \$900,000 in state entitlements. The state figure is going down due to troubles with the Veterans Trust Fund and restricted state veteran benefits.

Ordinance 161-O-010: Reauthorize The Use Of The Secure And Non-Secure Detention Facilities For Short Term Detention

In February of 2004, an ordinance was adopted by the County Board to authorize the use of non-secure and secure detention facilities in Waukesha County to detain juveniles for up to 72 hours without a hearing, as a consequence for violating terms of a dispositional order. This was reauthorized again in February 2005 and is again due to sunset June 30, 2006. The department is requesting that this option continue through December 2007. Schuler said it has been used judiciously since it began whereby Maurer noted twice since its inception. Schuler said a supervisor, before approving a short-term detention, will review the circumstances surrounding each request and determine rationale.

A discrepancy was detected in the ordinance and fiscal note. The ordinance lists the next sunset date as December 2007 while the fiscal note reads June 2008. Kallin, a supporter of the program, suggested the committee approve the latter of the two dates. He felt this was an outstanding program but some oversight was still needed.

MOTION: Kallin moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve the ordinance.

MOTION: Kallin moved, second by Jeskewitz to amend the last "ordained" paragraph of the ordinance so the sunset date reads June 2008 instead of December 2007.

Esler said the prior authorization was an 18-month extension. He thought the ordinance was correct. Kallin withdrew the latter motion and Jeskewitz agreed. Behrend said he would explain the discrepancy on the Board floor.

The original motion to approve the ordinance carried 6-0.

Introduction to the Health & Human Services Department

Schuler distributed a flow chart of the department's divisions and explained the department's philosophy. He also gave history on the Health & Human Services Department and how it has evolved to its current organizational structure. The divisions in the department include Public Health, Fiscal Administrative Support, Intake & Support Services, Children & Family Services, Adolescent & Family Services, Long Term Care, and Clinical Services.

Schuler said over the next several meetings, staff will give educational overviews of the divisions, particularly for the benefit of the new members. On a regular basis, this committee meets jointly with the Health & Human Services Board at the Human Services Center.

Overview of the Intake and Support Services Division of the Health & Human Services Department

Robertson, Schmitz, Maurer, and Schuler were present to discuss this issue. Robertson distributed information on today's discussion and he gave examples of the types of calls they may receive in any given day. Intake & Support Services consists of three program/service areas: Access 1 and 2 referral and assessment service, Shared Services, and Economic Support Services. The division has a total of 66.49 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Access 1 and 2 are the primary initial contact points for non-clinical service referrals which could involve child and adult protection, parent/teen conflict, out of home placement requests, disability funding requests, etc. The Shared Services Unit provides short term and supportive services including Kinship Care assessment/funding, childcare certification, crisis child day care, home and financial management services, volunteer services, etc. Economic Support Services provides Medicaid assistance, Food Share and childcare, the fraud elimination program, and low-income energy assistance.

The Intake & Support Services Division oversees five contracts that provide prevention and intervention services to children and families and individuals in this community. They include the Addiction Resource Council, Hebron House, the Mental Health Association, the Women's Center, and the Association for the Rights of Citizens with handicaps (ARCh).

Singert left at 3:28 p.m.

Overview of the Administrative Services Division / Fiscal of the Health & Human Services Department

Kutz, Maurer, and Schuler were present to discuss this issue. Kutz distributed information on program description and program allocations (state and county match). Along with providing the overall direction of the department, this division is responsible for coordinating and providing

operational, fiscal and management information systems support. Major functions and responsibilities include the processing of client and provider payments, contract administration of purchased services, the billing for services to Medicare, Medical Assistance, commercial insurance carriers and responsible parties, and liaison to Human Resources. Department-wide data collection, accumulation, and reporting to various outside entities are coordinated and supported through this area. The major state funding source for Fund 150, the Basic County Allocation (BCA) is accounted for in this program area. Within the guidelines of the State of Wisconsin, the BCA can be used to fund a broad range of services, as it is not earmarked for any single purpose or program.

Future Agenda Items

- WCHSA Conference Report by Esler and Wolff
- Update on Long Term Care Redesign (Wolff)

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Kallin to adjourn at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved on: _____

James Jeskewitz
Secretary